

Summary of Survey

Establishing A National Center for Campus Public Safety

Introduction

Federal legislation has been proposed to establish a National Center for Campus Public Safety. Known as H.R. 748, this bill is currently under review in a Senate committee. More information regarding this House Resolution is available at the end of this summary.

On February 12th and 13th 2009, an informal survey for was posted on the DRU, DRU-Florida and the Big Ten and Friends listservs. This survey was in response the above named federal legislation.

Summary of Results

Of the 89 respondents, 82 (92% total) represented an emergency manager or part of an emergency management team at a college or university. Sixty-four (64) respondents (≈72%) have an understanding of H.R. 748 and 86 respondents (≈97%) thought emergency managers should be included in the planning, development, and operation of the National Center for Campus Safety.

Fifty-four respondents (≈63%) thought funding for the proposed Center should be funded through the Department of Education.

General Comments

Thirty-two (32) comments were made and are numbered below (copied from survey monkey).

1. This legislation should adhere to NIMS guidelines; all hazards should always be considered. Those who do emergency planning for higher education on a daily basis "need" to be included in this process.
2. This legislation is an IACLEA project. Having IACLEA driving the Emergency Management agenda is madness.
3. How could you possibly propose effective legislation without including input from the real experts in the field?
4. No.
5. This proposal would enhance emergency management and the safety of our campus community.
6. My concern is that if IAEM begins to lobby Congress to be specifically written into this legislation than the Center will not get funded as it will cause Congressional members to back off from the conflict. This center has been planned for 8 years and we're almost there. The nature of the Center and the description of its purpose make it multidisciplinary by nature and design. Funding this through Education (who isn't interested and is more focused on K-12) would be a mistake. DOJ is better situated to manage the grant and the Center. IAEM should be involved through the granting agency

by insuring they're part of the advisory board, etc. I'm VERY concerned that IAEM will blow this up at this late stage in the game if they go after Congress.

7. We can't do it without funding!
8. As an Asst Director of Public Safety recently tasked with Emergency Preparedness, I feel that it will need to be a vital part of this center.
9. None.
10. Perhaps a better name would be the National Center for Campus Security
11. The concerns of emergency management need to be on an equal footing with those of law enforcement. An active shooter or other large event will need to be a unified command effort by all involved.
12. DHS/FEMA.
13. It would be a waste of money. The useful information already exists, but campus needs are so varied that a National Center would not be effective.
14. Keep more funding coming, we need it
15. The focus should be on "all hazards" and developing campus safety planning & initiatives that focus on preparedness (plans, training, policy), recovery (crisis communications, continuity of operations, restoration of services, supporting students, faculty, and staff impacted by crisis), mitigation (training staff, faculty, and students to lessen the impact of known emergencies and vulnerabilities), and mutual, collaborative effort among the stakeholders involved in crisis management (fire, police, EH&S, facilities, emergency management, EMS, risk management, and administration). The current legislation does not recognize emergency management, nor does it require coordination and collaborative efforts through the Department of Justice (DOJ). The DOJ is not an emergency management entity, and has no experience to carry out an "all hazards" platform.
16. The use of the word "safety" when they mean "crime prevention" is the basis for the problem. Change that, and indicate campus police should work with emergency management and safety functions, and I have no problem with Justice funding police training.
17. I would like to see business continuity and recovery planning included in the efforts.
18. Perhaps too little too late. Best to be involved during the creation of the legislation instead of trying to change what is already written.
19. The National Center for Campus Safety should follow a comprehensive all hazard approach to planning.
20. None.
21. I don't have a problem with a key focus of the National Center for Campus Safety being towards law enforcement, but the activities and focus of the center needs to include emergency management and a philosophy of an all-hazards approach to campus safety issues. What is more likely, a campus shooting and or terrorism or impacts to campuses from fires, floods, weather, hazardous materials, etc.
22. This is a COPS grant for Law Enforcement (Public Safety). If we make this all-hazard it will water down the funding. IACLEA has been working on this for several years, so why should IAEM be able to jump on it at this late state and claim an equal part?

23. This is community policing money and best handled through police and public safety at colleges. Emergency managers (non police/public safety) will be involved as needed and as appropriate.
24. It needs to be "all-hazards" focused.
25. Justice has historically been more willing to broadly distribute funds than has ED. ED does not have the global understanding of the complexity of Public Safety. The recent grant offerings of ED in this area are an example of how they don't get it. Justice on the other hand, has a history of long term support of HEI through the efforts of our partners at IACLEA.
26. It is looking like the Chair of the IAEM-UCC defers matters of this nature to the Vice-Chair instead stepping up to the plate and tackling them himself like a true leader. Could it be due to his supervisor being the President of IACLEA and him deferring to her instead of being the leader for the IAEM-USA-UCC?
27. Needs to consider an ALL HAZARDS approach to keep in line with the National Response Strategy.
28. DOJ COPS programs have been directly involved in K-12 education related emergency preparedness and prevention programs for many years so for many this would seem like a natural fit; but the reality is that IAEM UCC has not been around long enough and is continually having to break down walls to be involved in emergency management related activities for Higher Ed. It seems to me that we (UCC) need to ensure we are at the table on this initiative or we may see ourselves looking from the outside in-this may be our opportunity to firmly establish our initiatives on a national level-.
29. We need to advocate this center being exactly what it is described as: a resource for helping campuses enhance safety and security readiness (all hazards). This does NOT need to morph into another compliance/regulatory function with added notification and reporting burdens placed on already stretched campuses resources and personnel. We have adequate systems and controls in place for this through Dept of Ed in relation to Title IV funds. My hope is the center would help us work in closer unison with other local, state, and federal agencies and with other higher ed institutions in close proximity to us to capitalize on the same resources that are often directed at municipalities and law enforcement agencies to help them coordinate and collaborate from an all-hazards/multi-agency model. Our campus "communities" often get left out of these processes at the local and state level as there is an assumption that we are just part of the communities in which we are located. We are actually small communities in larger communities with law enforcement functions, residential neighborhoods, health care centers, central power plants, utilities and transportation infrastructure--all of the things that go hand in hand in a community.
30. I am not supportive of any additional governmental programs or requirements. Question #6 assumed funding should be granted, it should not.
31. Yes, I don't think we need this - National Center for Campus Safety. Waste of money and resources.
32. Campus safety has evolved from response (police) to also focus on prevention & preparedness (EM role). DOJ & DOE should partner to enhance policy & funding areas for Universities.

Reference

H.R.748

Title: To establish and operate a National Center for Campus Public Safety.

Sponsor: Rep Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [VA-3] (introduced 1/28/2009). Cosponsors (4).

Latest Major Action: 2/4/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.